

## Message Text

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44

ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 LAB-04 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07

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R 031145Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2846

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

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EO 11652: NA

TAGS: ILO, ELAB, NS

SUBJ: REQUEST FOR INFO ON ILO ACTIVITIES

REF : (A) STATE 206158, (B) STATE 203991

SUMMARY: ALTHOUGH ILO HAS SENT SHORT-TERM TECHNICAL ADVISERS FROM TIME TO TIME, ONLY MAJOR ILO PROJECT FOR SURINAM, A NATIONAL VOCATIONAL TRAINING SCHEME, IS STILL AWAITING EXECUTION.

1. DURING RECENT DISCUSSION ON SURINAM'S RELATIONS WITH UNDP, GOS OFFICIAL CHARGED WITH COORDINATING ACTIVITIES OF UN SPECIALIZED AGENCIES TOLD EMBOFF THAT FOUR OR FIVE ILO ADVISERS HAVE VISITED SURINAM AT ONE TIME OR ANOTHER, LARGELY TO CONSULT ON VOCATIONAL TRAINING. IN THE LATER 1960'S, AN ILO EXPERT CONDUCTED A STUDY OF VOCATIONAL TRAINING NEEDS AND ISSUED A REPORT PROPOSING A NATIONAL VOCATIONAL TRAINING SCHEME, WHICH IS NOW ABOUT TO BE IMPLEMENTED. THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR VOCATIONAL TRAINING TO COORDINATE THIS PROGRAM WAS RECENTLY ANNOUNCED IN THE LOCAL PRESS. THIS COUNCIL WILL HAVE A TRIPARTITE STRUCTURE WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE GOS (MINISTRIES OF EDUCATION, LABOR AND PUBLIC HOUSING, AND DEVELOPMENT), EMPLOYERS AND LABOR

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UNIONS. AN ILO OFFICIAL IS EXPECTED IN PARAMARIBO IN THE

NEAR FUTURE TO BEGIN THE EXECUTION OF THE PROJECT, WHICH WILL BE NINETY PER CENT FUNDED BY THE GOS USING NETHERLANDS DEVELOPMENT AID AND TEN PER CENT FUNDED BY UNDP.

2. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS APPEARING IN EARLY 1975, THE VOCATIONAL TRAINING PROJECT AIMS TO COORDINATE ALL THE PROFESSIONAL AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING SCHOOLS IN SURINAM AND TO ESTABLISH A NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR VOCATIONAL TRAINING WHICH WILL DETERMINE POLICY AND FUTURE NEEDS FOR SKILLED TECHNICAL STAFFS AND ESTABLISH COURSE STANDARDS. THE TRAINING PROGRAM IS SAID TO INCLUDE COURSES AIMED AT RAISING THE LEVEL OF SKILLS OF WORKERS AND SUPERVISING STAFF IN EXISTING INDUSTRIES AND RAISING THE LEVEL OF KNOWLEDGE AND INFORMATION OF INSTRUCTORS IN VOCATIONAL TRAINING CENTERS, BASIC TRAINING OF SKILLED PERSONS SEEKING EMPLOYMENT IN ALL ECONOMIC SECTORS INCLUDING AGRICULTURE, AND THE CREATION OF AN APPRENTICESHIP SYSTEM. ILO EXPERTS AND SCHOLARSHIPS TO SURINAMERS WILL BE PROVIDED TO CARRY OUT THE PROJECT, ESTIMATED TO COST ABOUT \$2.6 MILLION IN 1977-78, OVER A PERIOD OF FOUR YEARS.

3. POST BELIEVES AIMS OF PROJECT ARE SUITABLE TO SURINAM'S NEEDS. PRODUCTIVE USE OF MORE THAN \$1.5 BILLION IN NETHERLANDS DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE PROMISED OVER THE NEXT TEN TO FIFTEEN YEARS WILL REQUIRE TRAINED LABOR AND THE TRANSFER OF SKILLS TO INHABITANTS OF OUTLYING AREAS WHO HAVE NOT REALLY BEEN PART OF SURINAM'S LABOR FORCE SO FAR. IN ADDITION, THE GOS'S OWN COUNTRY PROGRAM FOR UNDP ASSISTANCE DRAWN UP IN LATE 1973 ESTIMATES THAT ABOUT 100,000 WORKERS REQUIRE UPGRADING OF THEIR SKILLS. IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN HOW PROJECT WILL ACTUALLY BE EXECUTED, BUT IT WOULD SEEM TO BE ONE WHICH CAN BE WELL JUSTIFIED IN SURINAM.

4. WE UNDERSTAND THAT DELAYS IN IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROJECT SO FAR HAVE BEEN DUE TO THE INABILITY OF THE GOS TO TAKE NECESSARY DECISIONS REQUIRED TO APPROVE THE PROJECT IN TIMELY FASHION. GIVEN NORMAL PRACTICE IN SURINAM, WE WOULD ANTICIPATE THAT THIS PROBLEM WILL HAVE TO BE CONFRONTED THROUGHOUT THE DURATION OF THE PROJECT.  
ZURHELLEN

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## Message Attributes

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